DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 139 462 JC 770 282

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TITLE LACC Student Survey--Fall 1976. Research Study #77-4.
INSTITUTION Los Angeles City Coll., Calif.
PUB DATE Apr 77
NOTE 13p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Academic Aspiration; Cocurricular Activities; College Choice; Community Colleges; *Day Students; Demography; *Educational Objectives; *Evening Students; Income; *Junior Colleges; Junior College Students; School Surveys; *Socioeconomic Status; Student Attitudes; *Student Characteristics; Student Employment; Student Interests

ABSTRACT

This paper summarizes the results of a 35 item survey administered to 2,346 Los Angeles City College (LACC) day and evening students, 48% of whom responded. Among the findings were: (1) transfer to a four-year college was ranked as the most important reason for attending LACC by a plurality (42%) of the day students, while acquiring or improving basic job skills was ranked first by evening students; (2) five of six respondents claimed to have decided on a major course of study; (3) respondents ranked being more knowledgeable, earning more money, and improving creative abilities as the most important personal benefits they expected to gain from attending LACC; (4) little interest was shown in extra-curricular activities; (5) two-thirds of the day students worked an average of 13 hours per week while 92% of the evening students worked an average of 36 hours per week; (6) median family income for both groups was about $9,000, while the median personal income of evening students was $9,000 and that of day students $2,100; (7) two-thirds of both groups aspired to a baccalaureate or higher degree; and (8) day students averaged 4.7 days per week on campus and evening students averaged 2.7 days per week. Tabular data reflecting frequency of responses for each survey item, broken down by day/evening student status constitute the bulk of this report. (JDS)

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LOS ANGELES CITY COLLEGE

"LACC STUDENT SURVEY - FALL 1976"

Research Study #77-4

Ben K. Gold
Research Office
April, 1977

JC 770 262

"LACC STUDENT SURVEY - FALL 1976"

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

In order to obtain some information about students in the Los Angeles Community College District, the District Office of Research and Analysis, in conjunction with the District Research Committee (consisting of the research directors or equivalent at the nine colleges) developed a questionnaire and requested the college to administer it to a sample of students. It is anticipated that a district report will be available shortly. The purpose of this study is to summarize the responses of LACC students.

PROCEDURE OF THE STUDY

2,400 questionnaires were received from the District Office with the request that they be administered to a random sample of the LACC student body. It was decided to ask a sample of instructors to distribute the questionnaire in their classrooms and return the completed instrument to the Research Office. Questionnaires were then forwarded to the District Office, where they were keypunched and analyzed through the District computer, using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS), now available on the computer. Printouts of LACC and District-wide respondents were then furnished to the LACC Research Office. Data from these printouts furnish the information on which this report is based.

FINDINGS

Preliminary investigations indicated that using every third class (in order in the schedule of classes) meeting at 9:00 a.m. Wednesdays and every sixth class meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesdays, should provide 2,300 "randomly selected" students to whom the questionnaires could be administered.

FINDINGS (continued)

Accordingly, instructors of these classes were asked to participate (letter of invitation attached). Numbers of questionnaires sent to instructors were estimated from Active Class Enrollment printouts furnished by the Office of Instruction.

To meet timelines requests by the District Office, invitations and questionnaires were distributed to faculty on October 21, 1976 with a request that all materials be returned by October 29. Following is a summary of the distribution.

	DAY	EVENING	TOTAL
Number of classes:			
(a) in sample	43	23	66
(b) responding	36	11	47
	(83%)	(47%)	(71%)
Number of questionnaires:			
(a) sent	1,488	858	2,346
(b) completed and returned	908	224	1,132
	(61%)	(26%)	(48%)

The table below lists the questions asked of the LACC students and shows the number responding together with percents indicating each response to the questions. Figures are given separately for day and evening students.*

* The printout indicates responses for students who checked that they took day classes only, evening classes only, both day and evening classes, and a grand total. Since response from evening classes was low, it was felt that combined figures would be somewhat biased. For this reason, figures are included only for those taking day classes and those taking evening classes only.

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses
(figures in percents)

1. What is the most important reason you are attending college?

	DAY (N=788)	EVENING (N=179)
1. To acquire or improve basic job skills	26.3	35.8
2. To help choose a career	19.0	15.1
3. To prepare to transfer to a 4 year college	41.9	34.1
4. To develop basic learning skills (English, Reading, Mathematics)	4.1	3.4
5. To take courses for pleasure	1.5	3.4
6. To improve personal relationships	0.9	1.7
7. To improve self-confidence	2.4	2.8
8. Other	3.9	3.9

2. What is the most important reason you chose to enroll at this college?

	DAY (N=767)	EVENING (N=179)
1. Low admissions requirements	9.4	8.9
2. Financial aid	2.5	1.1
3. No tuition	20.9	22.9
4. Close to home	33.0	43.0
5. Athletic program	1.6	0.0
6. Friends attend	2.5	2.8
7. Parent's advice	2.5	0.6
8. Counselor's advice	4.0	1.7
9. Peer recruiter	0.9	1.7
10. Academic reputation of college	14.5	12.8
11. Other	8.3	4.5

3. Have you decided upon a major course of study in college?

	DAY (N=787)	EVENING (N=182)
1. Yes	82.5	84.6
2. No	17.5	15.4

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses (continued)

4. What is the most important personal benefit you expect to gain from attendance at this college?

	DAY (N=777)	EVENING (N=184)
1. Earn more money	16.7	21.2
2. Be more knowledgeable	53.4	55.4
3. Understanding myself better	4.8	2.7
4. Understand my environment	2.6	1.1
5. Improve creative abilities	13.0	9.2
6. Develop personal interests	6.9	8.7
7. Other	2.6	1.6

5. In which extra-curricular activity are you most interested in participating?

	DAY (N=773)	EVENING (N=178)
1. Student Government	6.0	5.6
2. Cheer (song leader)	1.9	0.6
3. Drill team	0.6	0.6
4. Service club	5.2	4.5
5. Drama	5.7	4.5
6. Choral group	3.6	5.1
7. School publication	4.8	4.5
8. Orchestra	3.6	2.2
9. Athletics	22.0	12.4
10. None	43.3	59.6
11. Other	3.2	0.6

6. In which inter-collegiate sports activity are you most interested in paticipating?

	DAY (N=783)	EVENING (N=183)
1. Baseball	4.0	4.9
2. Football	5.2	3.3
3. Basketball	8.4	3.8
4. Volleyball	6.6	3.8
5. Soccer	3.4	0.5
6. Tennis	16.1	20.8
7. Swimming	7.4	6.6
8. Track and field	2.9	1.1
9. Gymnastics	6.8	4.9
10. None	34.2	49.2
11. Other	4.9	1.1

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses (continued)

7. In which intra-mural (within school) sports activity are you most interested in participating?

	DAY (N=781)	EVENING (N=179)
1. Baseball or softball	5.1	5.0
2. Football	3.6	3.9
3. Basketball	8.6	3.9
4. Volleyball	8.6	3.9
5. Badminton	3.7	2.2
6. Tennis	19.6	19.6
7. Swimming	10.1	7.8
8. Track and field	3.3	1.1
9. None	33.2	51.4
10. Other	4.2	1.1

8. In what type of classes are you primarily interested?

	DAY (N=795)	EVENING (N=186)
1. Credit classes	79.4	76.3
2. Non-credit community services classes	1.6	0.0
3. Both	19.0	23.7

9. What is your primary means of getting to campus?

	DAY (N=794)	EVENING (N=186)
1. Own car	51.6	76.9
2. Car pool	4.8	2.2
3. Motorcycle	1.4	0.0
4. Walk	6.9	9.1
5. Bus	33.4	11.3
6. Bicycle	1.8	0.5

10. Approximately how many miles do you live from campus?

		DAY (N=786)	EVENING (N=185)
1. Less than one mile		8.0	10.8
2. 1 - 2.9 miles		17.9	23.8
3. 3 - 5.9	Median:	28.8	30.8
4. 6 - 9.9 miles	day - 5.5 miles	19.6	15.1
5. 10 - 15 miles	evening - 4.5 miles	16.8	11.9
6. More than 15 miles		8.9	7.6

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses (continued)

11. How many hours do you work per week?

		DAY (N=789)	EVENING (N=186)
1. None		34.7	8.1
2. 1 - 10 hours		9.3	4.3
3. 11 - 20 hours		19.8	3.8
4. 21 - 31 hours	Median:	16.5	2.7
5. 32 - 40 hours	day - 13 hrs./week	13.8	62.9
6. More than 40 hours	evening - 36 hrs./week	6.0	18.3

12. Please estimate your parent's income (answer only if you live with parents).

		DAY (N=375)	EVENING (N=42)
1. Under $4,000		17.1	21.4
2. $4,000-5,999		16.5	9.5
3. $6,000-8,999		17.6	19.0
4. $9,000-11,999		12.5	11.9
5. $12,000-14,999		10.4	11.9
6. $15,000-17,999	Median:	8.3	9.5
7. $18,000-20,000	day - $8,800	7.2	7.1
8. Above $20,000	evening - $9,000	10.4	9.5

13. Please estimate your personal annual income (include all income).

		DAY (N=745)	EVENING (N=176)
1. No income		18.8	5.7
2. Under $1,000		16.4	2.3
3. $1,000-1,999		13.0	2.3
4. $2,000-2,999		14.1	1.1
5. $3,000-3,999		10.6	5.1
6. $4,000-5,999		9.9	8.0
7. $6,000-7,999	Median:	6.8	18.2
8. $8,000-10,000	day - $2,100	4.4	23.9
9. Above $10,000	evening - $9,000	5.9	33.5

14. Was your academic high school program specifically oriented towards preparation for college?

	DAY (N=780)	EVENING (N=183)
1. Yes	55.0	57.4
2. No	45.0	42.6

15. Are you interested in enrolling your child(ren) in the campus child-care center?

	DAY (N=780)	EVENING (N=183)
1. Yes	10.5	6.7
2. No	29.7	35.2
3. Not applicable	59.8	58.1

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses (continued)

16. What is your current college grade point average?

		DAY (N=757)	EVENING (N=172)
1.	No grade point established	23.0	19.8
2.	Below 2.00	2.8	2.9
3.	2.00 - 2.49	23.2	14.0
4.	2.50 - 2.99	22.6	25.0
5.	3.00 - 3.49	18.6	27.3
6.	3.50 - 4.00	9.8	11.0

Median: day - 2.55; evening - 2.75

17. How many units do you plan to take this semester?

		DAY (N-787)	EVENING (N=187)
1.	Less than 3 units	1.4	2.7
2.	3 - 5 units	2.5	27.3
3.	6 - 8 units	5.3	29.4
4.	9 - 11 units	11.1	19.3
5.	12 - 15 units	61.8	19.3
6.	16 - 18 units	14.5	2.1
7.	More than 8 units	3.4	0.0

Median: day - 13.5 units; evening - 7.0 units

18. What is the total number of units that you have completed in college before this semester?

		DAY (N=783)	EVENING (N=185)
1.	None	22.7	12.4
2.	Less than 15 units	17.8	18.4
3.	15 - 29 units	23.4	22.2
4.	30 - 44 units	15.1	11.9
5.	45 - 49 units	12.1	7.0
6.	60 units or more	8.9	28.1

Median: day - 22 units; evening - 27 units

19. What was your highest level of education before attending this college?

		DAY (N=794)	EVENING (N=185)
1.	Some elementary school	0.5	0.5
2.	Elementary school diploma	0.3	0.0
3.	Some high school	5.9	4.9
4.	High school diploma	67.0	42.7
5.	Some college, no degree	19.5	32.4
6.	2-year college degree	2.6	3.2
7.	4-year college degree	2.8	11.4
8.	Some graduate school	0.4	1.6
9.	Graduate degree	1.0	3.2

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses (continued)

20. What is the highest academic degree you plan to obtain?

	DAY (N=793)	EVENING (N=185)
1. High school diploma	2.6	2.2
2. Certificate of completion	2.3	2.2
3. AA, AS (2 year)	16.0	16.2
4. BA, BS (4 year)	25.7	30.3
5. MA, MS (Masters)	19.4	21.1
6. Doctorate or Professional (Ph.D., VD, LL.D. etc.)	17.3	14.1
7. Undecided	10.6	74.1

21. In which classes are you currently enrolled?

	DAY (N=797)	EVENING (N=187)
1. Day classes beginning prior to 4:30 p.m.	100.0	0.0
2. Evening (classes beginning 4:30 p.m. and later)	0.0	100.0
3. Both	0.0	0.0

22. Please indicate your sex.

	DAY (N=785)	EVENING (N=180)
1. Male	49.7	46.1
2. Female	50.3	53.9

23. Please indicate your racial/ethnic background:

	DAY (N=766)	EVENING (N=180)
1. American Indian/Alaskan native	2.2	2.2
2. Black/Negro	36.9	38.3
3. Mexican-American/Spanish surname	18.7	16.1
4. Asian/Pacific Islander	16.3	6.7
5. Filipino	2.0	7.2
6. Other white	21.4	27.2
7. Other non-Caucasian	2.3	2.2

24. Please indicate your age group:

	DAY (N=794)	EVENING (N=182)
1. 19 years or younger	30.7	4.9
2. 20 - 24 years	41.3	23.6
3. 25 - 29 years	16.5	31.3
4. 30 - 39 years Median age:	8.1	24.7
5. 40 - 49 years day - 21.3	2.5	8.2
6. 50 - 55 years evening - 27.0	0.4	3.3
7. Above 55 years	0.5	3.8

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses (continued)

(Questions 25 - 29 requested zip codes, not analyzed in this report, question 30 indicated the college).

31. What is your marital status?

	DAY (N=797)	EVENING (N=187)
1. Married	16.7	33.2
2. Divorced	5.5	16.6
3. Widowed	0.3	0.0
4. Never married	77.6	50.3

32. How many dependent children (under 18) do you have?

	DAY (N=797)	EVENING (N=187)
1. One	11.0	13.4
2. Two	4.4	9.1
3. Three	2.5	4.3
4. Four	0.5	2.7
5. Five or more	0.8	0.5
6. No dependent children	80.8	70.0

33. How many <u>days</u> per week are you on the LACC campus (or off-campus center)?

	DAY (N=788)	EVENING (N=185)
1. One	0.2	7.0
2. Two	0.5	38.9
3. Three	12.7	24.9
4. Four	5.5	20.5
5. Five	78.3	8.6
6. Six	2.8	0.0

Median:
day - 4.7 days
evenings - 2.7 days

34. How many hours per day, on the <u>average</u>, are you on the LACC campus (or off-campus centers)

	DAY (N=797)	EVENING (N=187)
1. One or less	4.1	6.4
2. Two	4.1	7.5
3. Three	16.9	46.0
4. Four	29.1	10.2
5. Five	20.8	9.1
6. Six	11.9	5.9
7. Seven	4.3	3.2
8. Eight	4.0	2.1
9. More than eight	4.6	9.6

Median:
day - 4.3 hours
evening - 3.3 hours

Summary of Fall 1976 Student Survey Responses (continued)

35. Have any members of your immediate family ever attended LACC?

	DAY (N=797)	EVENING (N=187)
1. Yes, presently attending	18.1	16.6
2. Yes, but none presently attending	21.3	17.1
3. No	60.6	66.3

CONCLUSIONS

This study summarizes results of a survey administered to LACC students in October, 1976. Distributions of respondents' sex, age, and ethnic background indicates that the sample is representative of the entire student body (day and evening separately). Following are some highlights of the responses:

(1) Most important reason for attending college was indicated as "transferring to a four-year college" by a plurality of day students (42%), while "acquiring or improving basic job skills" was ranked first by evening students (36%). Both groups indicated the most important reasons for choosing LACC to be (in order) "close to home," "no tuition," and "academic reputation of college."

(2) Five out of six students (both day and evening) claim to have decided on a major course of study.

(3) Day and evening students agree that the most important personal benefits they expect to gain from attendance at LACC to be (in order) "be more knowledgeable," "earn more money," and improve creative abilities."

(4) Little interest is shown by either group in extra-curricular activities, with athletics heading the list for both. Most popular sports activity is tennis.

(5) Half of the day students, three quarters of evening students drive their own cars to campus. One third of the day students, but only one tenth of the evening students ride the bus.

(6) Two thirds of the day students work, averaging 13 hours per week; 92% of evening students work, averaging 36 hours per week.

CONCLUSIONS (continued)

(7) Median family income for both groups is indicated at about $9,000. For personal income however, the evening students' median remains at $9,000, while the day students drops to $2,100.

(8) Two thirds of both groups indicate their academic goal to be a bachelor's degree or higher.

(9) Day students average 4.7 days a week on campus, 4.3 hours per day, evening students 2.7 days a week, 3.3 hours per day.

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